

**Anatidæ.** DUCKS.—Ducks were plentiful, but were flying high and frequenting the middle of the lake. They did not decoy well, nor in other ways offer the sportsman good shooting. The species mentioned are Canvas-back, Blue-bills, Redheads, Widgeon, and Mallards. As Mr. Mershon is a sportsman well acquainted with the ducks of North America, and as he mentions only such species as we found common during our stay, it is probable that a number of species of ducks avoid Quill Lake to a great extent.

**Oidemia fusca.** VELVET SCOTER.—“I noticed a great many flocks of Velvet Scoter, and succeeded in killing one fine specimen that I am now having mounted.” (Mershon.)

**Branta canadensis.** CANADA GOOSE.—Geese were reported as thick in wheat stubble west of Quill Lake.

**Olor columbianus.** WHISTLING SWAN.—“I saw quantities of swans.” (Mershon). Date, October 9.

**Charadrius dominicus.** GOLDEN PLOVER.—One seen on October 9, and two on October 11.

**Bonasa umbellus umbelloides.** GRAY RUFFED GROUSE.—Contrary to our experience, Mr. Mershon found this bird not rare at Quill Lake, getting three specimens and seeing another. He comments upon the unusually heavy feathering of the tarsus of the birds taken.

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### GENERAL NOTES.

**A Parasitic Jaeger near Ottawa, Ontario.**—A bird of the year of *Stercorarius parasiticus* was brought to the undersigned during the first week of September, 1909. It had been shot on the 4th of that month on the Ottawa River, near where the Lievre empties into it. It was a male; the stomach was empty. The nearest localities given in Macoun's latest catalogue for this species are the Great Lakes (Fleming) and the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Dionne). If I remember correctly, there had been no great storms or other violent meteorological disturbances previous to the date of capture. It therefore seems somewhat remarkable that this species should be found in the place mentioned.—G. EFRIG, *Addison, O.*

**European Widgeon (*Marca penelope*) in Florida.**—I want to record the taking of two specimens of *Marca penelope* near Titusville, Florida, on February 20, 1907. Both were full-plumaged adult males and were shot by N. F. Emmons of Boston. One bird he had mounted for himself and the other, which he presented to me at the time, is in my collection. The only mention that C. B. Cory makes of this bird in his book entitled

'Key to the Water Birds of Florida' is that "it occasionally wanders to our shores." In Bulletin No. 26 of the Biological Survey, Wells W. Cooke in his article 'Distribution and Migration of North American Ducks, Geese and Swans' says, in respect to the European Widgeon, that "on the Atlantic coast the dates are almost entirely in the fall and winter. . . . there are only three records after February 5." If this is the case, and I find no evidence to the contrary, this is the fourth record only after the date he mentions, for the Atlantic coast.—S. PRESCOTT FAY, *Boston, Mass.*

**Two Records of the Golden-eye at De Funiak Springs, Florida.**— On December 5, 1907, an adult female Golden-eye Duck (*Clangula clangula americana*) was taken on a small fresh-water lake near De Funiak Springs, Florida. The specimen was taken by M. Harry Moore, and mounted by him. It was sent to the American Museum of Natural History, and identified by W. De W. Miller from an examination of the specimen.

On November 20, 1909, an adult female of the same species was seen on the same lake. It was observed under such favorable conditions that there was no doubt in my mind as to the identification.

Prof. Wells W. Cooke says that this is "almost the extreme limit of its southern range, as it has been noted only a few times in Florida."—G. CLYDE FISHER, *De Funiak Springs, Florida.*

**Nesting of the Black Duck in Yates County, N. Y.**— May 26, 1907, I found a nest of the Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) in Potter Swamp. The locality was a young second growth of maple, beech and ash of four to eight inches in diameter. The ground was nearly dry and covered with a rank growth of ferns and skunk cabbage. The female was flushed from a bunch of six small maples growing from a mound about three feet above the surrounding ground and there in the center of the bunch of trees were six eggs layed on a few broken fern stems and dead leaves.

On my next visit (June 2) there were nine eggs and a nice lot of down had been placed around and among the eggs. A farmer told Mr. C. F. Stone of finding a nest of this duck in Potter Swamp in 1892 or 1893, but this is the first authentic record to my knowledge.—VERDI BURTCH, *Branchport, N. Y.*

**A Bittern taken in West Florida.**— On November 17, 1909, an adult male Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) was taken near De Funiak Springs, Florida. This is the first individual of this species that I have seen in this vicinity in the two and one-half years that I have been here, so I conclude that it is probably somewhat rare. This specimen, which was in excellent condition, was taken in a dry 'broom-sedge' field,— a rather unusual place, it seemed to me. Its stomach contained two grasshoppers which it had probably captured in this field. The bird was killed by Wm. F. Jones while out quail hunting.